

Lesson 25

GLORIFICATION

Compiled by Darrell Crow based upon personal studies, notes and prayer.

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GLORIFICATION

“Glorification” is the term used to describe the final removal of sin from the lives of Christians at the end of time. Dictionaries generally define glorification as a state of high or heightened honor. In biblical studies, however, glorification exists as one of three parts of the process of the Christian life that includes justification (being made right with God), sanctification (the ongoing process of being made holy), and glorification (the final removal of sin).

- *Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*
- *2 Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison*

When will glorification take place? Scripture indicates glorification will take place at the time of the final

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trumpet. *1 Corinthians 15:52 teaches this will take place in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

When this takes place, we will experience perfect joy in God's presence. *Jude 24-25 states, Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, (25) to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*

2 Corinthians 3:18 clearly indicates that, in a mysterious sense, “we all,” in the present, “with unveiled face” are “beholding the glory of the Lord” and are being transformed into His image “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit”.

This beholding and transformation (as part of sanctification) is not the work of especially saintly people, as Scripture clarifies the following *“For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”* In other words, it is a blessing bestowed on every believer. This does not refer to our final glorification but to an aspect of sanctification by which the Spirit is transforming us right now.

Philippians 3:20-21 talks about the changes that will take place when believers in Christ are glorified: *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”* Ultimately, the body of every Christian will become like Christ's body, fully glorified in eternity.

How will these glorified bodies work? Much is unstated directly in Scripture. However, some suggest that our glorified bodies will in some ways relate to the body a person has on earth. This is based on the descriptions of Jesus in his post-resurrection body. He was recognizable to His followers, even showing them the scars on His hands and side. Jesus also had the ability to eat, though it was not necessary for His survival. However, Jesus was recorded as having the ability to appear in a room despite the door being locked. When He walked with the two men on the road to Emmaus, He also was able to somehow conceal His identity.

- *John 20:27-28 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*

"Glorification" will take place at the time of the final trumpet.

In truth, much is unknown about the final glorified state of the Christian's body in eternity. However, it is clear Christians will be with the Lord forever, sin will be removed, and the scene was powerful enough in John's vision that some of His final words were, *"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20)*. Those who know the Lord will enjoy a perfect eternity with a glorified body perfectly designed by the God of creation to last eternity.

- *Revelation 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;*
- *Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

At Christ's coming, the glory of God (*Romans 5:2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*)—His honor, praise, majesty, and holiness—will be realized in us; instead of being mortals burdened with sin nature, we will be changed into holy immortals with direct and unhindered access to God's presence, and we will enjoy holy communion with Him throughout eternity. In considering glorification, we should focus on Christ, for He is every Christian's "blessed hope". Glorification is the culmination of sanctification.

Final glorification must await the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Until He returns, we are burdened with sin, and our spiritual vision is distorted because of the curse. *"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known."* (*1 Corinthians 13:12*). Every day, we should be diligent by the Spirit to put to death what is "fleshly" (sinful) in us (*Romans 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*)

God's glory refers not only to the unapproachable light that the Lord inhabits, but also to His honor and holiness. The "You" referred to in *Psalm 104:2* (*Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak, Stretching out heaven like a tent curtain.*) is the same God referenced in 1 Timothy 6:15-16. God is "clothed with splendor and majesty," covering Himself "with light as with a garment". When the Lord Jesus returns in His great glory to execute judgment, He will do so as the only Sovereign, who alone has eternal dominion.

- *1 Timothy 6:14-16* "that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) which He will bring about at the proper time--He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, (16) who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen."
- *Luke 2:13* "And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "
- *Psalm 93:1* "The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD has clothed and girded Himself with strength; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved."
- *Job 37:22* "Out of the north comes golden splendor; Around God is awesome majesty."
- *Job 40:10* "Adorn yourself with eminence and dignity, And clothe yourself with honor and majesty."
- *Matthew 24:29-31* "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (30) And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (31) And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.
- *Matthew 25:31-35* "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. (32) All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; (33) and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. (34) "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (35) For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

Created beings dare not gaze upon God's awesome glory; like Ezekiel (*Ezekiel 1:4-29*) and Simon Peter (*Luke 5:8*), Isaiah was devastated by self-loathing in the presence of the all-holy God. After the seraphim proclaimed, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" Isaiah said, "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" (*Isaiah 6:4*). Even the seraphim showed that they were unworthy to gaze upon the divine glory, covering their faces with their wings.

God's glory may be said to be "heavy" or "weighty"; the Hebrew word kabod literally means "heavy or burdensome"; Most often, the Scriptural usage of kabod is figurative (e.g., "heavy with sin"), from which we get the idea of the "weightiness" of a person who is honorable, impressive, or worthy of respect.

In His high priestly prayer, the Lord Jesus requested that God would sanctify us by His truth (i.e., make us holy;) *John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.).*

Sanctification is necessary if we are to see Jesus' glory and be with Him in eternal fellowship

- *John 17:21-24 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. (22) The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; (23) I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. (24) Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

According to Philippians 3:20–21 ²⁰ *For our ^[a]citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform ^[b]the body of our humble state into conformity with ^[c]the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*

Changes That Will Take Place When Believers In Christ Are Glorified

**The Body Of Every Christian Will Become Like Christ's Body
Believers Will Enjoy Holy Communion With The Lord Throughout Eternity.**

**Sin Will Be Removed
There Will Be No More Sin Nature
We Will Be Changed Into Holy Immortals**

Paul is telling us that our citizenship is in heaven, and when our Savior returns He will transform our lowly bodies "*to be like His glorious body.*" Although it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, we know that, when He returns in great glory, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. We will be perfectly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus and be like Him in that our humanity will be free from sin and its consequences. Our blessed hope should spur us on to holiness, the Spirit enabling us.

- *1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is."*
- *1 John 3:3 "And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*

As far as God is concerned, we are as good as glorified. Positionally, we are glorified, because we are in Christ, and Christ is in heaven in a glorified state. If we could lose our glorification, then Christ would have to lose His.

Paul says in Romans 8:18, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”*

The deliverance of the Christian is just as certain as the deliverance of creation from the curse (*For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, ^[a]in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. Romans 8:19-22*)

Both rests upon God’s sovereign purpose.

Our glorified position will become a living reality to us when Christ comes.